(d) whether Government are aware that imports at this juncture would affect farmers in getting the remunerative prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) In terms of an agreement signed between the Governments of United States of America (USA) and India on 28-5-1992 about 47,000 Metric Tonnes (MTs) of crude degummed soyabean oil was supplied, as gift, by USA during August-September, 1992. In pursuance of the agreement, a supplementary agreement has been signed with the Government of USA under which about 44,000 MTs of soyabean oil would be supplied, as gift, by USA during the US Fiscal Year 1993. The decision to sign the agreement with Government of USA for import of soyabean oil for US Fiscal Year 1992 and 1993 was taken after consulting all concerned Departments of Government of India.

(c) The soyabean oil for the US Fiscal Year 1993 is proposed to be accepted as it has been offered by the Government of USA as grant and also because the Government of India has committed itself to this import by signing the agreement dated 28-5-1992 referred to above. Moreover, the proposed import will obviate any commercial import of edible oils in future, if a shortage develops.

(d) Since the quantity of soyabean oil proposed to be imported is quite small as compared to the domestic requirement of edible oil, the proposed import of soyabean oil may have only marginal effect on domestic edible oil prices. Consequently, the proposed import will not affect the farmers in getting remunerative prices for oilseeds.

Customs and revenue facilities to exporters

2606. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce a fast track for genuine exporters in so far as clearance by customs and revenue authorities are concerned; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the special treatment contemplated for such exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Certain changes in the procedures for processing of documents and for examination of cargo have been introduced by the Government with effect from August, 1991 to facilities expeditious clearance of export cargo. These inter-alia, include:—

(A) *Delegation of powers for processing of documents for export:*

Export documents in the following cases are finally approved by Appraiser of Customs/Superintendent of Central Excise:

(i) export documents relating to export of goods not leviable to any export duty or cess or involving payment of drawback;

(ii) export documents involving payment of drawback upto an amount of Rs. 1 lakh; and

(iii) export documents involving export of goods under the duty exemption schemes upto a value of Rs. 1 lakh.

(B) *Relaxation of norms for examination of export consignments:*

The consignments which have been examined and sealed by central

excise officers or by export inspection agencies, Textile Committee, etc. are not reuqired to be examined at point of export except for random/intelligence based checks. Likewise, for export consignments belonging to established exporters having unblemished track record, routine examination of each consignment has been dispensed with.

Apart from the aforesaid changes, the goods imported by exporters under the various export schemes (100 per cent EOU/EPZ Schemes, Advance Licensing Scheme, etc.) are granted expeditious clearance by setting apart a set of officers exclusively to assess such imports at the major Ports.

2601. [*Transferred to 26th August, 1993.*]

Recruitment Rules of the Indian Cost Accounts Service

2602. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that amendments to the recruitment rules of the Indian Cost Accounts Service to recruit 25 per cent of the officers at Deputy Director level was made to get people for posting outside Delhi;

(b) how many officers have been recruited on the basis of this amendment so far, what are their names and how many of them have been posted outside Delhi;

(c) whether it is a fact that the officers recruited and who are in position were a part of the service before such recruitment; and

(d) whether it is fact that the direct recruitment at Deputy Director level provides a window for recruiting the favourites of the top bureaucrates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Four officers have been recruited on the basis of this amendment viz. S/Shri B. S. Raghunathan, R. Asokan, S. C. Bera and J. P. Singh; one of these officers has been posted outside Delhi.

(c) Two out of the four officers mentioned at (b) above were part of the Service before recruitment to the post of Deputy Director.

(d) No, Sir, direct recruitment is done through the Union Public Service Commission.

Banks in Maharashta question

2603. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of various Nationalised Banks in the rural areas of Maharashtra;

(b) bank-wise break up as on date;

(c) number of Regional Rural Banks operating in Maharashtra;

(d) whether there is any proposal to open more Regional Rural Banks during the current financial year; and

(e) if so, the region-wise break up thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The number of branches of each public sector banks functioning in rural areas of Maharashtra as on 30 September,